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EXAMINER

LETT, THOMAS J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2626

DATE MAILED: 10/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/052,167

Applicant(s)

EVANS ET AL.

Examiner

Thomas J. Lett

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/22/02</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 33 is objected to because of the following informalities: the term "activating" should be changed to read "activate" on page 27, line 16. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Keane et al (USPN 6,650,433 B1).

With respect to claim 1, Keane et al disclose a print tracking system (print job management system 10, col. 7, lines 45-46) on a computer network (Internet 14), comprising:

(a) a message queue, wherein said message queue is formatted to comprise a plurality of records (see Table for plurality of records, col. 16, lines 10-37), and wherein each of the records comprise data pertaining to a print job submitted by a user at a client computer (central database 20, col. 16, lines 1-45);

(b) an unbilled print alert (a purchase wizard configured to run on the user's browser, col. 14, lines 15-35 that receives information (alerts) about printing transactions) resident on the client computer (a pc 11 and browser 13, see Fig. 1A); and

(c) a workstation monitor (website 16 col. 8, lines 11-32, with web server, col. 15, lines 10-18) in communication across the network (Internet 14) with said message queue and said unbilled print alert, wherein said workstation monitor comprises the capability of transmitting a message (web server processes interactions between the customer at the client and website, col. 15, lines 10-18) to said unbilled print alert if said message queue contains a record pertaining to a print job submitted by the user.

With respect to claim 2, Keane et al disclose a print tracking system of claim 1, wherein said unbilled print alert comprises one of an icon and a message that appears on a computer screen associated with the client computer (a purchase wizard configured to run on the user's browser, col. 14, lines 15-35 that receives information (messages, see Figs. 4P-4W) about printing transactions).

With respect to claim 3, Keane et al disclose a print tracking system of claim 1, further comprising a printer monitor (central database 20, col. 16, lines 1-45) in communication with the client computer, wherein said printer monitor comprises the capability to monitor the client computer for the submission of a print job by the user and to create a record pertaining to the print job submitted by the user (see Fields for monitored information, col. 16, lines 10-37).

With respect to claim 4, Keane et al disclose a print tracking system of claim 3, further comprising a billing dialogue, wherein said billing dialogue comprises the

capability to receive qualification data from the user at the client computer (a Billing Information screen that allows the customer to input billing information (FIG. 4V), col. 14, lines 32-33).

With respect to claim 5, Keane et al disclose a print tracking system of claim 4, wherein said billing dialogue comprises a graphical user interface (a Billing Information screen that allows the customer to input billing information (FIG. 4V), col. 14, lines 32-33).

With respect to claim 6, Keane et al disclose a print tracking system of claim 4, further comprising a manager's module, wherein said manager's module comprises the capability of setting a maximum unbilled print job value (Fig. 4M shows that printed documents can be billed as complimentary or, the web server host may, if desired, charge additional fees for enhancements such as expedited service and gloss or other special finishes, col. 14, lines 50-52).

With respect to claim 7, Keane et al disclose a print tracking system of claim 6, wherein said billing dialogue further comprises the capability of forcing the user to enter qualification data before proceeding when the number of records pertaining to a print job submitted by the user exceeds the maximum unbilled print job value (a Billing Information screen that prompts the customer for required billing information, col. 14, lines 32-33 and see Fig. 4V).

With respect to claim 8, Keane et al disclose a print tracking system of claim 7, wherein said billing dialogue further comprises the capability of obscuring the screen of the client computer when the number of records pertaining to a print job submitted by

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the user exceeds the maximum unbilled print job value (a Billing Information screen that prompts the customer for required billing information, col. 14, lines 32-33 and see Fig.

4V. Examiner notes that the GUI of Fig. 4V occupies a significant portion of a computer screen.).

With respect to claim 9, Keane et al disclose a computer network, comprising:

(a) a communications medium (internet 14, see Fig. 1A);

(b) at least one client computer connected to said communications medium

(user's browser would be an example of a client computer, col. 14, lines 17-20);

(c) at least one printer connected to said communications medium (printers of Fig. 1B, col. 8, lines 38-45);

(d) a message queue (see Table for plurality of records, col. 16, lines 10-37) connected to said communications medium, wherein said message queue is capable of storing at least one record, and wherein each of said records comprise data pertaining to a print job submitted by a user at one of said client computers (see central database 20, col. 16, lines 1-45); and

(e) a workstation monitor resident on said client computer (website 16 col. 8, lines 11-32, with web server, col. 15, lines 10-18), wherein said workstation monitor transmits a message to said client computer if said message queue contains a record pertaining to a print job submitted by the user (messages, see Figs. 4P-4W).

With respect to claim 10, Keane et al disclose a computer network of claim 9, further comprising an unbilled print alert (a purchase wizard configured to run on the

user's browser, col. 14, lines 15-35 that receives information (alerts) about printing transactions) connected to said communications medium.

With respect to claim 11, Keane et al disclose a computer network of claim 10, wherein said unbilled print alert comprises one of an icon and a message that appears on a computer screen associated with said client computer (a purchase wizard configured to run on the user's browser, col. 14, lines 15-35 that receives information (messages, see Figs. 4P-4W) about printing transactions).

With respect to claim 12, Keane et al disclose a computer network of claim 10, further comprising a printer monitor (central database 20, col. 16, lines 1-45) resident on one of said client computer and said server, wherein said printer monitor comprises the capability to monitor said client computer for the submission of a print job by the user and to create a record pertaining to the print job submitted by the user (see Fields for monitored information, col. 16, lines 10-37).

With respect to claim 13, Keane et al disclose a computer network of claim 12, further comprising a billing dialogue resident on said client computer, wherein said billing dialogue comprises the capability to receive qualification data from the user (a Billing Information screen that prompts the customer for required billing information, col. 14, lines 32-33 and see Fig. 4V).

With respect to claim 14, Keane et al disclose a computer network of claim 13, wherein said billing dialogue comprises a graphical user interface appearing on a computer screen associated with said client computer (a Billing Information screen that allows the customer to input billing information (FIG. 4V), col. 14, lines 32-33).

With respect to claim 15, Keane et al disclose a computer network of claim 13, further comprising a manager's module resident on one of said client computer and said server, wherein said manager's module comprises the capability of setting a maximum unbilled print job value (a Billing Information screen that prompts the customer for required billing information, col. 14, lines 32-33 and see Fig. 4V).

With respect to claim 16, Keane et al disclose a computer network of claim 15, wherein said billing dialogue further comprises the capability of forcing the user to enter qualification data before proceeding when the number of records pertaining to a print job submitted by the user exceeds the maximum unbilled print job value (a Billing Information screen that prompts the customer for required billing information, col. 14, lines 32-33 and see Fig. 4V).

With respect to claim 17, Keane et al disclose a computer network of claim 16, wherein said billing dialogue further comprises the capability of obscuring a screen associated with the client computer when the number of records pertaining to a print job submitted by the user exceeds the maximum unbilled print job value (a Billing Information screen that prompts the customer for required billing information, col. 14, lines 32-33 and see Fig. 4V. Examiner notes that the GUI of Fig. 4V occupies a significant portion of a computer screen.).

With respect to claim 18, Keane et al disclose a method of tracking print jobs on a computer network, comprising the steps of:

(a) detecting a print job sent by a user from a client computer (central database logs information regarding print jobs, col. 16, lines 1-7);

(b) writing a record comprising data pertaining to the print job to a message queue (see Table for plurality of records regarding print jobs, col. 16, lines 10-37);

(c) creating an unbilled message alert if a record is detected in the message queue for the user (a purchase wizard configured to run on the user's browser, col. 14, lines 15-35 that receives information (alerts) about printing transactions).

With respect to claim 19, Keane et al disclose a method of claim 18, wherein said creating an unbilled message alert comprises the step of displaying one of an icon and a message on a computer screen associated with the client computer (a purchase wizard configured to run on the user's browser, col. 14, lines 15-35 that receives information (alerts) about printing transactions).

With respect to claim 20, Keane et al disclose a method of claim 18, further comprising the step of initiating a billing dialogue when the number of records in the message queue exceeds an unbilled print job value (a Billing Information screen that allows the customer to input billing information (FIG. 4V), col. 14, lines 32-33).

With respect to claim 21, Keane et al disclose a method of claim 20, further comprising the step of initiating a billing dialogue in response to a user request (a Billing Information screen that allows the customer to input billing information (FIG. 4V), col. 14, lines 32-33).

With respect to claim 22, Keane et al disclose a method of claim 20, wherein said step of initiating a billing dialogue further comprises the step of creating a graphical user on the client computer (a Billing Information screen that allows the customer to input billing information (FIG. 4V), col. 14, lines 32-33).

With respect to claim 23, Keane et al disclose a method of claim 20, further comprising the step of clearing the record from the message queue when the user completes the billing dialogue associated with the record (web studio may also include a dynamic shopping cart, which allows the customer to access the shopping cart at any time during the design process to add or delete items, col. 13, lines 34-36).

With respect to claim 24, Keane et al disclose a method of claim 23, further comprising the step of setting a maximum unbilled print job value (Fig. 4M shows that printed documents can be billed as complimentary or, the web server host may, if desired, charge additional fees for enhancements such as expedited service and gloss or other special finishes, col. 14, lines 50-52).

With respect to claim 25, Keane et al disclose a method of claim 20, wherein said step of initiating a billing dialogue further comprises the step of forcing the user to enter qualification data before proceeding when the number of records pertaining to a print job submitted by the user exceeds the maximum unbilled print job value (a Billing Information screen that prompts the customer for required billing information, col. 14, lines 32-33 and see Fig. 4V).

With respect to claim 26, Keane et al disclose a method of claim 25, wherein said step of forcing the user to enter qualification data before proceeding when the number of records pertaining to a print job submitted by the user exceeds the maximum unbilled print job value further comprises the step of obscuring the screen of the client computer when the number of records pertaining to a print job submitted by the user exceeds the maximum unbilled print job value (a Billing Information screen that prompts the

customer for required billing information, col. 14, lines 32-33 and see Fig. 4V. Examiner notes that the GUI of Fig. 4V occupies a significant portion of a computer screen.).

With respect to claim 27, Keane et al disclose a print tracking system, comprising:

(a) means for detecting a print activity (central database logs information regarding print jobs, col. 16, lines 1-7);

(b) means for billing print activity (purchase wizard, see Fig. 4V); and

(c) a message queue (see Table for plurality of records, col. 16, lines 10-37) that functionally separates said means for detecting print activity and said means for billing print activity.

With respect to claim 28, Keane et al disclose a print tracking system of claim 27, wherein said message queue comprises means for receiving information extracted from a print activity (see Table for plurality of records, col. 16, lines 10-37).

With respect to claim 29, Keane et al disclose a print tracking system of claim 28, further comprising means for notifying a user of the presence of extracted information in said message queue related to a print activity associated with the user (see Table for plurality of records, col. 16, lines 10-37).

With respect to claim 30, Keane et al disclose a print tracking system of claim 29, further comprising a billing dialogue (a Billing Information screen that allows the customer to input billing information (FIG. 4V), col. 14, lines 32-33).

With respect to claim 31, Keane et al disclose a print tracking system of claim 30, further comprising means for activating said billing dialogue when said message queue

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contains information extracted from a number of print activities that exceeds a maximum unbilled print job value (Fig. 4M shows that printed documents can be billed as complimentary or, the web server host may, if desired, charge additional fees for enhancements such as expedited service and gloss or other special finishes, col. 14, lines 50-52).

With respect to claim 32, Keane et al disclose a print tracking system of claim 31, wherein said billing dialogue prevents the user from continuing until billing information is entered (a Billing Information screen that prompts the customer for required billing information, col. 14, lines 32-33 and see Fig. 4V).

With respect to claim 33, Keane et al disclose a print tracking system of claim 31, wherein said means for notifying a user of the presence of extracted information in said message queue related to a print activity associated with the user further comprises means for allowing the user to activating said billing dialogue voluntarily (a Billing Information screen that allows the customer to input billing information (FIG. 4V), col. 14, lines 32-33).

With respect to claim 34, Keane et al disclose a print tracking system of claim 31, further comprising means for clearing information extracted from a print activity (web studio may also include a dynamic shopping cart, which allows the customer to access the shopping cart at any time during the design process to add or delete items, col. 13, lines 34-36) resident in said message queue when the user enters billing information pertaining to the print activity in said billing dialogue (a Billing Information screen that allows the customer to input billing information (FIG. 4V), col. 14, lines 32-33).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas J. Lett whose telephone number is (571)272-7464. The examiner can normally be reached on 7-3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly A. Williams can be reached on (571)272-7471. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TJL

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